

## Harrison County Economic Development

www.harrisonchamber.org

Harrison County,  
Indiana - USA*We wouldn't trade places with anybody!*

Harrison County Economic Development  
310 North Elm Street  
Corydon, Indiana 47112

Phone: 812-738-2137  
Fax: 812-738-6438  
Website: www.harrisonchamber.org

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Neil R. Eisner, Esquire  
Assistant General Counsel for Regulation  
and Enforcement  
Office of General Counsel  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Eisner,

This spring the Indiana General Assembly ended the state's long-running debate on the issue of Indiana's full observance of Daylight Saving Time. As required in the legislation, a request has been sent to you by Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels petitioning for hearings to review the location of the boundary between the Eastern and Central time zones in Indiana.

The choice before our state is clear: Eastern or Central. Eastern validates the Daylight Saving Time vote taken by the Indiana General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Daniels. Eastern DST provides the opportunity for business gains, increased safety, energy savings and an enhanced quality of life. Moving to the Central time zone eliminates those benefits and runs the risk of additional traffic fatalities, crimes and energy usage.

Based on a study conducted by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Indiana companies execute considerably more of their business with states to the East than those in any other time zone. Attempts to move portions of Indiana out of the Eastern time zone would cause the state irreparable harm and make the hard-fought DST victory a hollow one. The reasons include:

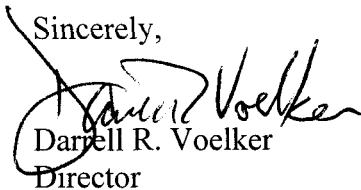
- **The economy.** Indiana companies do far more of their business with states to the East than in any other time zone. In 2002, the numbers were more than \$197 million in tangible business between Indiana companies and firms in Eastern DST states. Furthermore, Indiana does 52.3% of its import business with the Eastern Time Zone alone and 39% of its export business with the Eastern DST

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- **Safety.** Eastern DST adds evening sunlight to each day. A U.S. DOT study in 1985 showed DST or additional sunlight reduces traffic fatalities by 7% annually (that's 58 Indiana lives) and reduces crime by 10% annually (that's almost 21,000 fewer personal and property related crimes). Central DST takes away hours of evening sunlight, reduces these safety benefits and increases the risk of further fatalities and crimes
- **Energy savings.** A study by the California Energy Department found that DST provides a 3%-4% reduction in energy costs (annual savings of \$617 million in Indiana) and would save the equivalent of 10,000 barrels of oil a day. These savings would turn into additional costs under Central DST
- **Quality of life.** More evening sunlight equals more family time and opportunities for healthier living through outdoor activities. Neither would happen under Central DST. In fact, the sun would set before 5 p.m. every day from late October through late January

Please allow me the opportunity to thank you for your consideration of the petition sent forth by Gov. Daniels and the state of Indiana. Your consideration of the request and the information presented here reflects the need for the continued future growth of our state and is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Darrell R. Voelker  
Director

CC: State Representative Paul Robertson  
State Senator Richard Young